

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3, with the following paragraph:

A3
Thereby, when a process is switched, a branch prediction is prevented from being performed according to branch prediction data of a past process. Thereby, it is possible to reduce misses of branch prediction.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 19, with the following paragraph:

A4
Thereby, it is possible to change strength of prediction at a time of initialization, and to perform an optimum ~~perdition~~ prediction. Accordingly, it is possible to improve a probability that branch prediction makes a hit.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 20, with the following paragraph:

A5
The branch prediction information from the branch ~~perdition~~ prediction information switching circuit 154 is provided to the execution control circuit 122 which then performs a branch based on the branch prediction information provided from the branch prediction information switching circuit 154.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 20, with the following paragraph:

A6
When the branch prediction control circuit 142 detects that the same process is processed and the branch prediction storage part 134 is used ~~therefor~~ therefore, branch ~~perdition~~ prediction is performed based on the branch prediction information obtained from the branch prediction storage part 134.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 18, with the following paragraph:

A7 Then, the tag information 138 of the thus-obtained entry of the branch prediction table of the branch prediction storing part 134 is examined. Then, the past process information which was used in producing the ~~perdition~~ prediction information is obtained therefrom.
